

2013 DEER REDUCTION INFORMATION SHEET FOR OUABACHE STATE PARK

Please save or print a copy of this document for reference. You are responsible for understanding all the following information.



Important Note

We appreciate your willingness to help manage the impact from deer browsing. For this reduction to be effective, please harvest any deer that presents a safe and ethical shot (within established bag limits), especially those that are antlerless. Please make every effort to be present during the reduction. The number of hunters allowed at each park is strategically calculated. Your absence affects how successfully we reach our objective of a balanced ecosystem.

- Date/Time:** The 2013 Deer Reduction hunts will be conducted on November 18th & 19th and December 2nd & 3rd. The park will be closed to the general public starting from 6 p.m. EST on the Sunday before each hunt period through 6 p.m. EST the Tuesday following each hunt period. In order to enter the park the day(s) of the hunt, you must bring a state-issued photo identification.
- Hunt Hours:** Hunters may enter the field no earlier than 5:30 a.m. Actual shooting hours one half hour before sunrise (local time) until 4 p.m. EST.
- Bag Limit:** During each reduction period for which you have been drawn, you are allowed to take up to three deer, only one of which can be antlered. These deer do not count against your regular state deer hunting license or bag limit. **Please do not pass on antlerless deer for deer with antlers.**
- Open House:** Due to lack of interest and attendance, there will no longer be an Open House. If you have questions, please contact the park office to schedule an appointment if you feel it is necessary.
- Hunting Method:** **All hunting must take place from a tree stand.** Tree stands must be non-penetrating. Hunting from the ground, including the use of ground blinds, is prohibited. Walking throughout the hunting zones will not be permitted.
- Set-Up:** Tree stands may be installed up to 9 days in advance. All stands must be removed on the last day of the hunt for each period. If you intend to mark the area of your tree stand with a plastic ribbon, please make sure you collect that ribbon at the end of the hunt so you do not confuse later hunters and hikers in the park. As a general rule, please take out anything you bring into the park. Please practice “leave no trace” ethics to ensure a clean and high quality park.

A 5-point safety harness is highly recommended for this hunt!

Safety Zones:	Safety Zones have been established and marked with bright yellow plastic ribbons. You may not enter these areas except to retrieve a deer. Loaded firearms are not permitted in safety zones, park buildings or service areas.
Hunter Orange:	Hunters must wear hunter orange at all times. A hat or cap <u>AND</u> vest, jacket, coat, or coveralls will satisfy this requirement. Minimal patches or logos are permitted, but camouflage orange is not.
Alcoholic Beverages:	Absolutely NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES will be allowed in the park.
Meat Handling:	You must take possession of all deer you harvest. Please plan in advance for donating your deer to charity or a foodbank if your freezer is full by the time of the hunt. Contact the property for a list of meat handling companies in the area that process deer if you wish to donate meat to charity. It is up to you to pay all processing costs. When leaving the property with harvested deer, please cover them with a tarp or other suitable material.
Substitutes:	Substitutes will not be permitted if you are unable to attend your hunt.
Hunters With Disabilities:	If you have a DNR disability hunting license and indicated this on your application, you should call the park office before November 15 th so we can try to accommodate any special needs you may have.
Parking:	Park only in authorized areas. You may park along park roads. DO NOT PULL VEHICLES OFF OF THE ROAD. KEEP ALL FOUR WHEELS ON PAVEMENT.
Tagging:	You will receive permanently-assigned tags to place on all harvested deer when they are brought to the check station.
Retrieval:	You are responsible to retrieve your deer from the field. DO NOT leave the property and trespass on private property in an attempt to retrieve a downed deer. Contact the check station, park personnel or Law Enforcement personnel immediately. If you need assistance in retrieving a deer, call the office and property staff will move a deer from a trail or a road to your vehicle.
Field Dressing:	Please do not field dress deer in any mowed or public area. Field dress at least 50 feet from any road or trail and cover the entrails with leaf litter.
Non-hunters:	If you encounter non-hunters in the field, please contact property personnel and they will handle the matter.
Check Station:	All deer must be checked-in no later than 5:00 p.m. each day to the check station. The check station is located directly behind the park office.

Camping: **NO CAMPING WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE PARK DURING THE HUNTS.**

TAKING OF ANTLERED & ANTLERLESS DEER

Please keep in mind the purpose of your deer hunting opportunity on State Park or Nature Preserve properties is to reduce the deer herd in order to prevent overgrazing and resulting damage of the properties' vegetation.

Our primary goal is to take does since they have the largest long-term impact on a population. However, we recognize that antlered deer also directly contribute to the grazing impacts on the properties and appreciate your help with their removal. We are concerned that some hunters may be passing-up antlerless deer and deer with small antlers. Those hunters who pass on opportunities to remove deer with no or small antlers are actually hurting our ability to reduce the overgrazing problem. Whenever you have an opportunity to safely make an accurate well-placed shot, please help us by taking that deer, regardless of the antler size.

We do not want to restrict your opportunity to take home a deer, including its antlers. We may be forced to do so in future years if today's hunters pass-up deer that need to be removed.